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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF UTAH APR 17 mg/s

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CLERK SUFFIEME COURT
UTAH

In re:

Judicial Conduct Commission

Inquiry Concerning A Judge

02-5JC-083

No. 20030247-SC

ORDER

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Supreme Court by Article VIII, Section 13 of the Utah Constitution and <u>Utah Code</u> Ann. § 78-8-107, the Court approves the implementation of the Judicial Conduct Commission's Order of Formal Reprimand.

For The Court:

Christine M. Durham

Chief Justice

MAILING CERTIFICATE

I certify that on the 23rd day of April 2003, I mailed a true and correct copy of the foregoing Order, postage prepaid, to the following addresses:

Colin Winchester Executive Director Judicial Conduct Commission 645 South 200 East, Suite 104 Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

James E. Slemboski, P.C. 32 East 100 South, Suite 203 P.O. Box 1717 St. George, Utah 84771

Date

Pat H. Bartholomew

Clerk of Court

BEFORE THE UTAH JUDICIAL CONDUCT COMMISSION	
IN RE: HON. RICHARD M. DOBSON)) FORMAL ORDER OF REPRIMAND)) Case No. 02-5JC-083)

The Judicial Conduct Commission issues the following formal order of reprimand to Judge Richard M. Dobson:

STIPULATED FACTS

- Judge Dobson's daughter had been placed on limited house arrest, pending sentencing, by Judge James L. Shumate.
- 2. On March 27, 2002, Judge Dobson's daughter was seen by two St.

 George City Police detectives at a location that they believed was in violation of Judge Shumate's order. The detectives stopped the car in which Judge Dobson's daughter was traveling.
- 3. From the scene of the stop, Judge Dobson's daughter's fiancé contacted Judge Dobson by cellular telephone. Judge Dobson requested to speak to the detectives. During his telephone conversation with the detectives, Judge Dobson raised his voice in an inappropriate manner and stated that he had "trusted the police

and backed them 100 percent," but "now [he was] not so sure anymore." In addition, Judge Dobson told the officers that he was "going whole hog on this one" and that he was going to "come after [them] with the full weight of the law."

4. On March 28, 2002, at a hearing before Judge Shumate, Judge Dobson disclosed that he had been rude to the detectives, and publicly apologized to them.

APPLICABLE PROVISION OF CODE OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Canon 4A of the Code of Judicial Conduct requires a judge to conduct his extrajudicial activities so that they do not cast reasonable doubt on the judge's capacity to act impartially as a judge, and so that they do not demean the judicial office.

STIPULATED CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- By angrily engaging the detectives by cellular telephone, Judge Dobson violated Canon 4A of the Code of Judicial Conduct.
- 2. Judge Dobson's conduct was prejudicial to the administration of justice and brought his judicial office into disrepute.

FORMAL ORDER OF REPRIMAND

Judge Dobson is formally reprimanded for having committed conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice which brought his judicial office into disrepute, in violation of Article VIII, Section 13 of the Constitution of Utah and Utah Code Ann. § 78-8-103(1)(e).

ORDER TO BECOME EFFECTIVE ONLY UPON IMPLEMENTATION

This formal order of reprimand shall only take effect upon implementation of the same by the Utah Supreme Court.

CONSENT AND ACKNOWLEGMENT

Judge Dobson consents to the issuance of the foregoing formal order of reprimand.

Judge Dobson acknowledges that this document will be disclosed to the Utah Supreme Court for issuance of its final order, and consents to such disclosure.

Judge Dobson acknowledges that when this document is filed with the Utah Supreme Court, it will be available to the public, and consents to such disclosure.

DATED THIS 18th day of March, 2003.

JUDICIAL CONDUCT COMMISSION:

Kutu Replace Ruth)Lybbert, Chair

ACCEPTED: Hon. Richard M. Dobson

APPROVED BY:

James E. Slemboski, Attorney for Hon. Richard M. Dobson

3-13-02